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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the letter dated 15 June 1998 form Mr. Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, addressed to you (S/1998/513). In his letter, Mr. Al-Sahaf accused Kuwait of misrepresenting the press statements made by Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, Vice-President of Iraq, during his recent visit to the Kingdom of Morocco, concerning demarcation of the boundary between Kuwait and Iraq. He also accused Kuwait of attempting to deceive the Security Council and further alleged that the Vice-President of Iraq had never referred to the legal value of Security Council resolution 833 (1993).

Since the clarifications given by Iraq in the above-mentioned letter of the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs refuted the press reports and accused Kuwait of falsifying and distorting the quoted statements, and in order to disclose the facts to the members of the Security Council and expose the allegations made by Iraqi officials, I am pleased to enclose herewith a recorded tape of the press interview given by the Vice-President of Iraq, Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, during which he made his irresponsible remarks on the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait by the United Nations. The tape categorically affirms the accuracy of the letter dated 9 June 1998 from the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait addressed to you (S/1998/484), as well as the accuracy of the press report in this connection. Mr. Ramadhan said the following:

> "Now the matter of boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, which was settled by the Security Council - I do not wish to raise it before the press because I have my own opinion on it - (laughing) but legally it has no value because there is nothing in the entire Charter of the United Nations which states that the Security Council should discuss the demarcation of a boundary between any two States in the world. Anything relating to sovereignty is a matter for the States - a State is entitled not to fulfil any adopted resolution which affects its sovereignty."

Finally, I wish to emphasize once again the seriousness of this statement, which reveals the hostile intentions of Iraqi officials towards Kuwait and demonstrates how they make light of Security Council resolutions and international law. It is also an attempt to circumvent the relevant Security Council resolutions and avoid the legal obligations stipulated in those resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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